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The Manchester Journal.

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APPLE BLOSSOMS.

BY E. L. ORRICK.

One Monday morning in May when

Mr. Castor, of the law firm of Castor &

Branch, entered his office he found on his

desk a bunch of fragrant white flowers

with the delicate flush at the heart that

make apple blossoms so irresistible.

"Apple blossoms, sir," his clerk ex-

plained. "I spent Sunday in the country, and

brought them down thinking you might

like to see some."

Mr. Castor's preoccupied face, lighted

up with pleasure. Thank you, Mr.

Clark, he said. Get some water will you

John? We must keep them as fresh as

we can. I shall want to take some home

to my wife to-night. There? that looks

quite country like, doesn't it, Clark? ar-

ranging the blossoms to advantage

against the law books and then falling

back a little to look at the effect.

Clark smiled, and Mr. Castor went to

work at his law cases. But something

was the matter with him. His thoughts

would go wandering off to the green

meadows by the side of the river where

Clark told him he had broken the fragrant

branch.

"Wonder, he soliloquized, whether it is

anything like that meadow where—

perhaps! what am I thinking of! In a case

of ejectment—wonder if I could sing An-

nie Laurie; used to know that tune.

And he hummed softly to himself:

"Give me the promise true—"

just as the door was thrown violently

open and John Edson, the most quarrel-

some man in New York, so his friends

and enemies both agreed, burst in.

What's the matter now, Mr. Edson?

asked Mr. Castor, rising to offer his client

a seat.

"Matter? Matter enough, sir! But if

he thinks I am going to submit to be robbed

by his kinsman, he'll find himself very

much mistaken! My brother, sir, my

own brother—think of that, sir!—is try-

ing to cheat me out of my share of our

paternal property. I want you to take

steps immediately to stop his proceed-

ings. He threatens to bring in a bill

against the estate that will swallow up

every cent—but what's that? Apple

blossoms! Where did you get those?

Mr. Clark brought them down this

morning. Sweet, though rather out of

place in a lawyer's office, don't you

think?

"I don't know said Mr. Edson, thought-

fully, taking up the tumbler and smelling

the fragrant things. Where did these

grow?

"Up in a little country village in Con-

necticut. Clark is from the country, you

know, and I should think from his de-

scriptions it's quite a pretty place. Green

meadows and river, you know, all that

sort of thing. But what do you want me

to do?

"Wait a minute, can't you? said Mr.

Edson, impatiently. Your lawyers are al-

ways in such a tearing hurry.

Mr. Castor raised his eyebrows but

made no verbal answer to this rather in-

consistent remark, while Mr. Edson

leaned back in his chair and looked at

the apple blossoms. In a minute he started

up and brushed his hand across his eyes.

"It makes me think of old times, he said.

I nearly broke my neck once climbing an

old apple tree for blossoms like that to

give to Lucy Baird, the prettiest girl in

school. I fell from the top branch and

my brother, I never had but one, sir,

picked me up and carried me home. He

was real good to me all the long time I

was sick, too. I think he'd have died for

me then, and just to think that now we

should be quarreling over a few hundred

dollars! About this matter—just yet, at least,

I—I guess I'll go see him. And say—

rather shyly—you couldn't spare me a

little twig with a few of those blossoms

on it, could you?

Mr. Castor willingly broke off a branch

and handed it to him, but he watched Mr.

Edson's departure with a curious smile

on his countenance.

SWIMMING.

Prof. Wood, in an able appeal for the

regular practice of physical exercise,

mentions swimming as especially health-

ful and even necessary. The ancients, he

says, regarded this exercise as indispen-

sable, and in almost every one of the

European seaports, at the present day,

schools for swimming can be found. In

the city of Copenhagen it is, perhaps,

more general than in any other part of

the world. Man or woman can be taught

to swim by a competent teacher in a few

lessons of 30 minutes each. No man can

become a good boxer, fencer, or swim-

mer by looking at others and never mak-

ing a trial for himself. I would like to